

Rolls-Royce, was undertaken to ascertain whether the C. of A. should be granted, and although there has been no official statement, it is understood that it was successful. The flight, however, represents only a portion of the tests, and further trial tests, which are being conducted at Boscombe Down, are necessary before the full results can be made known.

KENSINGTON AIR STATION

WITH effect from May 31st B.E.A.'s new town terminal, from which all coaches for B.E.A. services will operate, will be at Stafford Court, 108, High Street, Kensington, and will be known as Kensington Air Station. From the same date the booking and enquiry offices, now at Airways Terminal and the Channel Islands Unit in the Victoria Coach Station block, will be at Dorland Hall, Lower Regent Street. These offices will be open to the public from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on weekdays, and there will be a 24-hour service for reservation by telephone throughout the week, including Sundays.

U.K.-CUBAN AGREEMENT

A BILATERAL agreement providing for the reciprocal grant of facilities in each others territories for the operation of scheduled air services has been signed between the United Kingdom and Cuba. This agreement, which is based on the principles of the Anglo-American agreement concluded at Bermuda on February 11th, 1946, covers the operation of services by the designated airlines of the two countries between Europe and Central America, and those connecting Cuba with neighbouring British colonies, and will come into force as soon as it has been ratified by the respective governments.

ACCIDENT OFF SHANKLIN

INEXPERT and dangerous low-flying has been given as the cause of an accident to an Auster which occurred off Shanklin beach, I.O.W., on August 29th last. The pilot of the aircraft, Mr. R. W. Bacon, and his two passengers, Mrs. S. Wilson and Miss J. A. Hall, lost their lives. After flying over Shanklin pier and performing a number of badly executed gliding and climbing turns the aircraft, from a height of about 250 feet, descended in an engine-assisted glide. At a height of approximately 150 feet the pilot dived towards a speed boat on the water, and at 100 feet increased the steepness of his

glide to a very steep angle. At about 40 feet the machine started to recover, but there was insufficient height available and the aircraft struck the water at an angle of 60 degrees and plunged below the surface. In his report on this crash the Chief Inspector of Accidents refers to Mr. Bacon's habit of low flying over the sea in the close vicinity of shipping against which he had been warned on more than one occasion but with little effect. He had been slow to learn to fly and had exhibited over-confidence; he was not an experienced pilot. The aircraft, its loading and documents were in order at the time of the accident which, it is said, was caused by errors of judgment and airmanship on the part of the pilot.

B.O.A.C. LEAVE POOLE

CONSEQUENT on the move of the B.O.A.C. flying-boat base from Poole to Southampton on April 1st this year, it is understood that a certain proportion of M.C.A. personnel at present employed at Poole will become redundant. Those affected are members of the Marine Craft Unit, which consists of fire-floats, air traffic control launches, and patrol craft engaged in the clearance of flotsam and jetsam. With the move to Southampton, and as part of the economy drive, the Ministry of Civil Aviation have decided that these craft should be manned by B.O.A.C. staff, and a number of dismissal notices, understood to be in the neighbourhood of 50, are being issued.

AIR FRANCE FACILITIES

TO break journey and spend up to fifteen days in Paris is a facility to be allowed to Air France passengers travelling to the capital for connections on long-distance flights. This facility, previously available only on certain routes, has been extended to cover practically all the company's services, and is now available to Air France passengers proceeding to the Far East, South America, Africa and the United States from almost any part of Europe. Passengers wishing to avail themselves of the facility must state the proposed length of stay in Paris at the time the through ticket is issued for the long-distance flight, in order that subsequent bookings can be arranged. A similar "stop-over" facility in Lisbon exists for passengers travelling between Casablanca and Bordeaux via Lisbon.

BREVITIES

Air lines are now running between Moscow and Khabarovsk and Moscow-Yakutsk. A passenger service has also been opened linking Moscow with Novosibirsk, Irkutsk and Krasnoyarsk.

The new edition of the "U.K. Air Pilot," which is in course of production, will provide information on aeronautical facilities, regulations and ground organization. It will be presented in loose leaf form comprising four parts: General Information, Meteorology, Telecommunications and Aerodromes.

Following two increases in schedules, on April 18th and May 31st, B.E.A. will be offering some 3,400 Viking seats each week in both directions between Britain and the Continent. This is an increase of nearly 50 per cent over last year.

One hundred radio mechanics are needed by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to maintain the transmitters, receivers and other equipment installed throughout the country for communication and navigational - aid purposes. Radio mechanics Grade I will start at £5 15s.

The British Gliding Association has reported satisfactory initial progress in raising funds for the British team to compete in the International (not Instructional as was misprinted in *Flight*, March 18th) Gliding Contests in Switzerland this summer. Contributions should be addressed to the Secretary, B.G.A., Londonderry House, 19, Park Lane, W.1. The first Gull IV practice aircraft has been delivered.

60 SECONDS: Transferring mail from a G.P.O. van into a waiting B.E.A. helicopter. In the current dummy-mail trials the aircraft is scheduled to remain on the ground for only one minute.

Mr. Whitney Straight, chief executive of B.O.A.C., left London on March 20th by air for America. His visit, which is expected to last ten days, is being made to discuss problems of joint interest with the heads of the principal American air lines.

On and after May 31st Air France will no longer use Airways Terminal, Buckingham Palace Road, as their departure and arrival station. Instead all coaches for Air France services will use the new Kensington Air Station at 108, High Street, Kensington.

B.E.A. non-stop scheduled services between London and Oslo will commence on April 18th. The service will operate

"Flight" photograph.

